



Asheville Transit Committee Minutes

**Regular Meeting
October 6, 2015**

Attending:

Committee Members: Dave Erb, Ed Johnson, Julie Mayfield, Tom Tomlin, Adam Charnack, Bruce Emory, Calvin Allen

City/ART Staff: Mariate Echeverry, Rose Christian

Community Members: Lyuba Zuyeva

3:38 pm - Opening of Meeting

Julie opened the meeting.

4 August 2015 and 1 September 2015 Minutes - Bruce moved to approve, Dave seconded, unanimous in favor.

3:39 pm - Public Comment I

none

3:39 pm - TC Experiences Riding the Bus

Ed commented on unsuitability of W3 / W4 stop at Walgreen's (Patton and Leicester). Mariate will investigate. Bruce has had problems with lateness on N1 and N2. Adam reiterated his comment from an earlier meeting about W3 and W4 taking a questionable detour to avoid lane crossings on Bowen Bridge during construction.

3:46 pm – Presentations

Mariate gave a presentation on Staff's recommendations for future fare increases. Effort has been made to minimize the impact on poverty-sensitive riders (who tend to prefer monthly passes). Details in memo. Fare changes in 2011 (ticket, monthly, and annual passes) had virtually no impact on ridership. Tom expressed the opinion that transfers cost the system more revenue than could be gained by the proposed fare increases. Staff has proposed that transfers only be usable once, and collected by driver upon use. Expiration time could be reduced from 90 minutes, if desired.

Adam recommended that cash fares be raised to \$1.25 and eventually to \$1.50, as proposed, but that monthly pass be raised closer to the 30 ride multiple used in other transit properties. Bruce additionally suggested planning to raise the monthly pass over time (to \$25 for FY17, but future rise to \$30), maintaining a 10 month multiple on the annual pass. He also recommended that we not follow the survey results regarding frequency of increases, suggesting that we do fewer larger increases, rather than continuous smaller increases. Several TC members agreed that surveys don't always predict actual behavior well. TC also recommends adoption of single-use transfers with 90 minute limit.

Tom moved, Dave seconded that Staff recommendations be adopted, as amended by TC (previous paragraph). Unanimous approval.

4:53 pm – Unfinished Business

TC Goals:

Super Service pilot - Adam has been in touch with FTA; no grants appear to be available, but he will persist.

Funding increase - goal is to get draft of funding proposal white paper to MMTC by December.

MMTC Update:

Bruce reported that last MMTC meeting focused on TC discussion from last month, especially the issues of First Transit's contract. MMTC recommended one year renewal of First Transit's contract, with some tightening of the contract next year.

Rose stated that her departure (rumored at the MMTC meeting) is not imminent.

City has decided not to renew the contract, and is in the process of developing a new RFP. Goal is to have a new contract by 1 July 2016. Mariate requested that TC members provide any input to the RFP as soon as is possible. Tom will act as TC liaison to Staff in the RFP process. Julie will coordinate with Just Economics.

TC Openings:

Application process will be open until 23 October.

Dave moved, Bruce seconded that TC waive term limits for one year to allow Tom Tomlin to continue to serve during transition as several TC members step down.

5:10 pm – New Business

Mariate requested TC endorsement of cooperative bus procurement with City of Rocky Mount to purchase two 35 foot diesel buses. There is no commitment on Asheville's part, should Rocky Mount's bid not produce satisfactory results. Adam moved, Tom seconded that TC support the City's joining the bid.

5:20 pm – Staff Updates

Questions raised about Haywood Road Multimodal project (NCDOT denial of on-street parking).

TMP Master Plan RFP update - Funding effective 1 October, with one year to complete.

Management Company RFP should be out by end of year.

5:26 pm – Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Review applications for TC openings; policy points for Council; advertising

5:27 pm – Meeting Adjourned